

MARVEL

6

LEVIATHAN

AHMED
KUDER
ABURTOV

DAREDEVIL



JRJR Hanna
MENSE

WHEN **MATT MURDOCK** WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-DEGREE RADAR SENSE.

FOR YEARS, MATT USED HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY AS **DAREDEVIL**, UNTIL HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO SAVE THE SOULS OF HIS FRIENDS, WHO HAD BEEN TRAPPED IN HELL BY THE SADISTIC **HAND CULT**. RECENTLY, MATT SOMEHOW RETURNED TO LIFE--BORN AGAIN AS A CATHOLIC PRIEST OVERSEEING SAINT NICHOLAS' YOUTH HOME.

BUT DEMONIC ENTITIES HAVE TARGETED THOSE WHO WERE CLOSE TO HIM--INCLUDING **ELEKTRA NATCHIOS**, **BEN URICH** AND **SHE-HULK**. THE BATTLE FOR THEIR SOULS REAWAKENED MATT'S LONG-HIDDEN MEMORIES OF HIS PREVIOUS LIFE--HE IS DAREDEVIL ONCE MORE!

WHO WILL BE NEXT?!

DAREDEVIL

"INTRODUCTORY RITES"

Part Six

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**ST. NICHOLAS',
HELL'S KITCHEN.**

BLESS ME,
FATHER, FOR I
HAVE SINNED.

MY LAST
CONFESSION WAS
YESTERDAY.

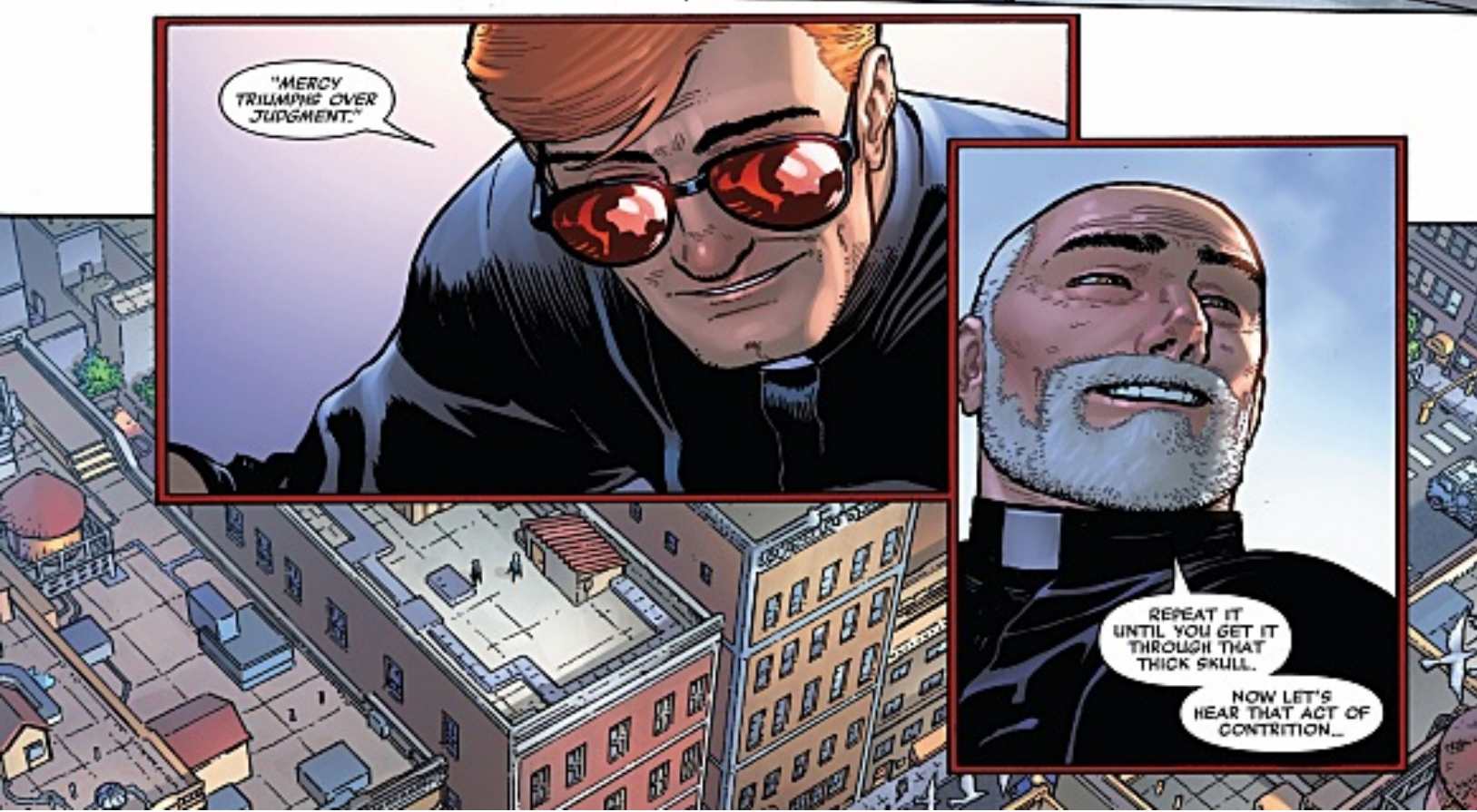
I'VE BEEN
SLOTHFUL IN MY
DUTY.

ENVIOUS
OF OTHERS'
HAPPINESS.

SOUGHT
ESCAPE IN
GLUTTONY.

AND I'VE
GINNED AGAINST
GOD IN WAYS
I'VE YET TO
RECOGNIZE.

I PRAY
YOU'LL HELP ME
ROOT OUT THOSE SINS
AND REPENT OF THEM.
I'VE FAILED MISERABLY
AT DOING SO
MYSELF.





JAVI'S A BETTER
PRIEST THAN I'LL
EVER BE.

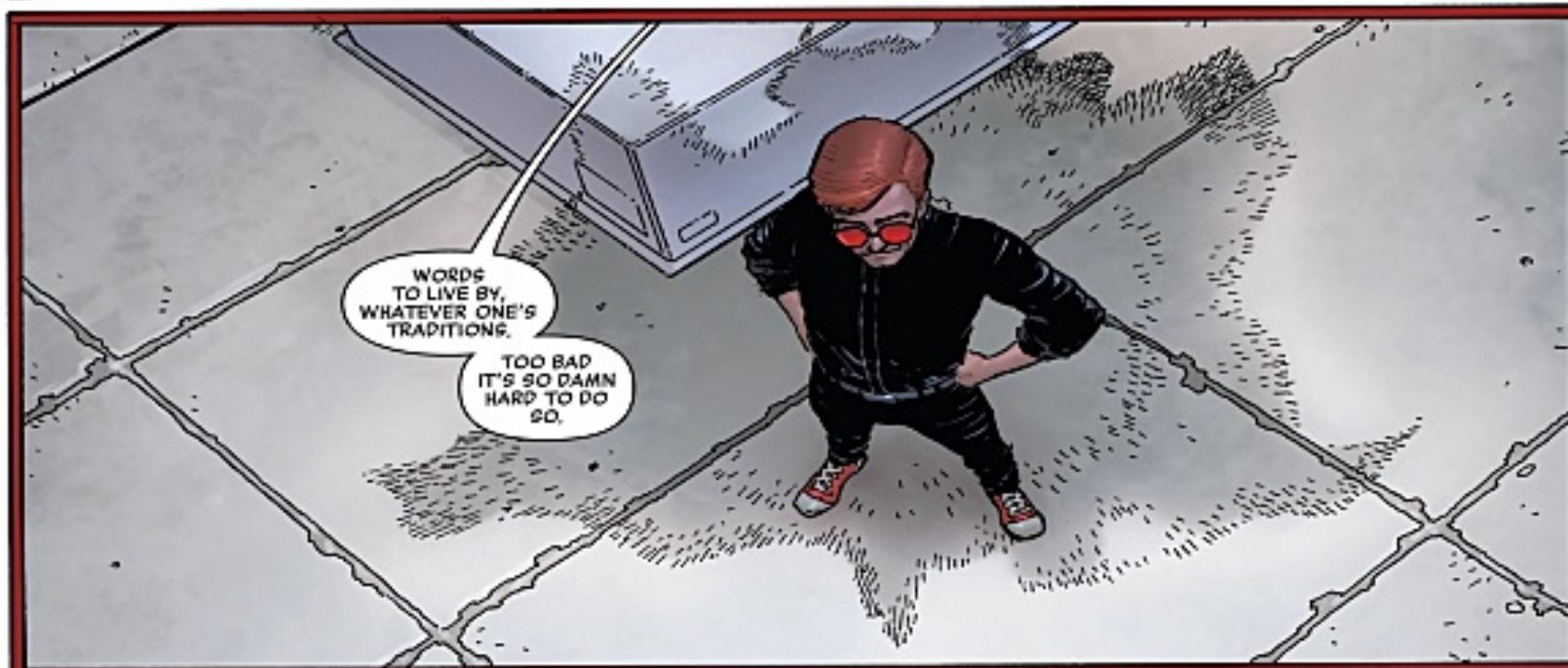
AS HE HEADS INSIDE,
I REALIZE HIS WORDS
ARE **EXACTLY** WHAT I
NEEDED TO HEAR.



ACROSS TWO LIVES
NOW, I'VE SPENT
COUNTLESS HOURS
DREADING BEING
JUDGED BY GOD...

...BUT NOT NEARLY
ENOUGH OF THEM
REFLECTING ON HOW
MERCIFUL HE IS.

"MERCY
TRIUMPHS OVER
JUDGMENT."



WORDS
TO LIVE BY,
WHATEVER ONE'S
TRADITIONS.

TOO BAD
IT'S SO DAMN
HARD TO DO
SO.

MATT
MURDOCK, AT
PEACE.

AS
SHOCKING
A SIGHT AS
ANYTHING ON
THE OUTER
PLANES.

DR. STRANGE!

HOW'S
SHE-HULK?

SHE'S DOING
WELL! RECOVERED
ALMOST INSTANTLY ONCE
YOU EXORCISED THAT
DEVIL FROM HER.*

THANK
GOD.

*--LAST ISN!

WELL, GOD
AND THE FACT
THAT THE WOMAN HAS
THE CONSTITUTION
OF A BULL.

BUT, AS
I TOLD YOU,
THERE IS A
BIGGER PICTURE
WE NEED TO
DISCUSS.

YOU SAID
YOU KNEW SOMETHING
ABOUT THESE... DEVILS
THAT HAVE BEEN
POSSESSING PEOPLE
AROUND ME?

I KNOW
MANY THINGS.
I'M HERE TO REMIND
YOU OF WHAT
YOU KNOW.

WHAT IS
THAT SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?

IT MEANS YOU
KNOW EXACTLY WHAT
TRAIL THESE DIABOLICAL
ENTITIES FOLLOWED
TO GET TO HELL'S
KITCHEN.

YOU JUST NEED
A LITTLE *PUSH* IN
ADMITTING IT.

CONSIDER
ME THAT
PUSH.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
WHAT TRAIL THEY
FOLLOWED?
I DON'T--

OH MY
LORD.

YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT
ME. THEY FOLLOWED
ME OUT OF
HELL.

WINNER,
WINNER, CHICKEN
DINNER.

AND IT
SEEMS THEY'RE
HERE TO DRAG
YOU BACK.



MAYBE...

...MAYBE
THAT'S WHAT I
DESERVE.



BUT THEY
AREN'T JUST
TORMENTING
ME.

ELEKTRA.
BEN. JENNIFER.
ALL SUFFERING DUE
TO MY SINS.



WHY WOULD
GOD ALLOW
THAT?

PRETTY
SURE THAT
QUESTION'S YOUR
DEPARTMENT,
FATHER.



OKAY, THEN,
HOW ABOUT YOU,
MR. *SORCERER*
SUPREME?

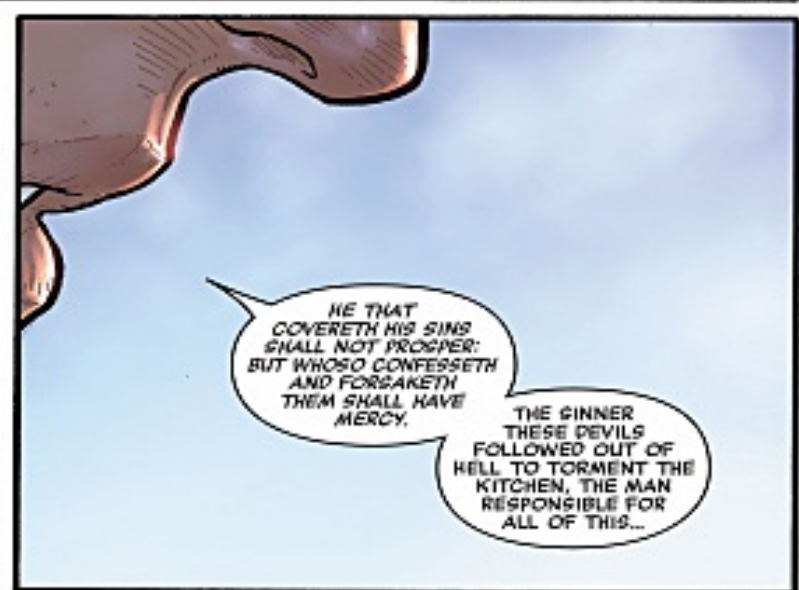
THESE DEVILS
HAVE BEEN *HURTING*
PEOPLE. WHY DON'T YOU
JUST SQUASH THEM
WITH *MAGIC*?




BECAUSE
THEY'RE YOUR
DEVILS.

ASKING ME
TO DESTROY THEM IS
LIKE...ASKING ME TO DECIDE
YOUR FAVORITE COLOR, OR
ASKING ME TO LOVE YOUR
FATHER FOR YOU.

IT JUST
DOESN'T WORK
THAT WAY.








THE AIR TEMPERATURE
SHIFTS, AND SUDDENLY,
STRANGE'S HEARTBEAT
IS NO LONGER THERE.

I'M ALONE NOW, AND
I'M...SOMEWHERE ELSE.

IT'S HELL'S
KITCHEN, BUT
IT'S NOT.


IS THIS PLACE AN
ILLUSION? A VISION? A
POCKET DIMENSION?



THEN I SENCE HIM
LOOMING OVER ME
AND I KNOW.



THIS PLACE IS MY
WILDERNESS.



THE DEVIL
PLUCKS ME UP
LIKE A LOUSE.

I'M BROUGHT
FACE-TO-FACE WITH
THE ADVERSARY.

AND HIS EYE IS
LIKE A MIRROR.

FIRST CAST
OUT THE BEAM
OUT OF THINE
OWN EYE

THEN
SHALT THOU SEE
CLEARLY

PLEASE!
I--I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

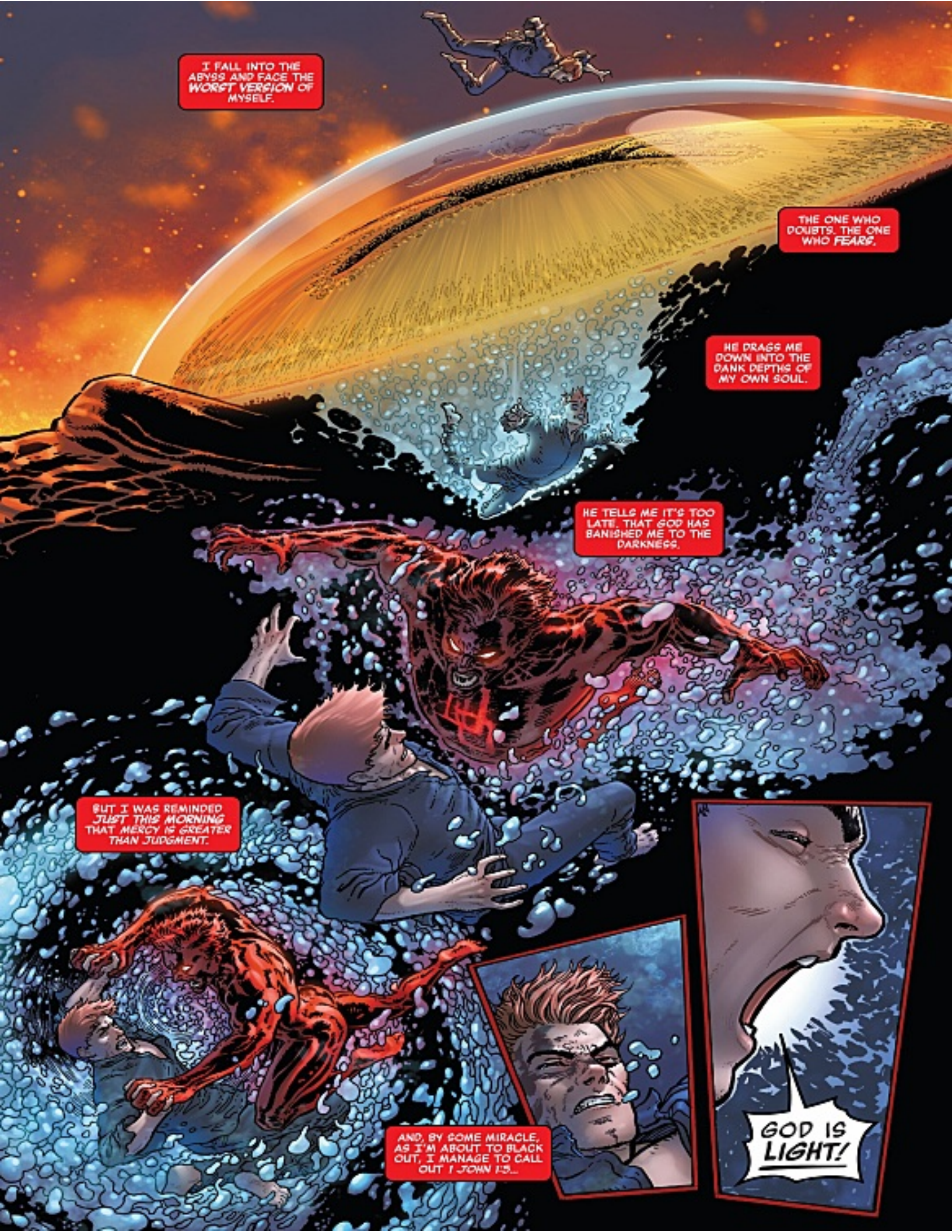
I DESERVE
THIS PAIN. ALL OF
IT. BUT MY FRIENDS...
WHY WOULD
GOD--?

KNOW
YE NOT YOUR
OWN SELF?

TH-THAT'S
MY VOICE...

WAIT!
COME
BACK!

DELIVER SUCH
AN ONE UNTO SATAN
FOR THE DESTRUCTION
OF THE FLESH, THAT
THE SPIRIT MAY
BE SAVED



I FALL INTO THE
ABYSS AND FACE THE
WORST VERSION OF
MYSELF.

THE ONE WHO
DOUBTS. THE ONE
WHO FEARS.

HE DRAGS ME
DOWN INTO THE
DARK DEPTHS OF
MY OWN SOUL.

HE TELLS ME IT'S TOO
LATE. THAT GOD HAS
BANISHED ME TO THE
DARKNESS.

BUT I WAS REMINDED
JUST THIS MORNING
THAT MERCY IS GREATER
THAN JUDGMENT.

AND, BY SOME MIRACLE,
AS I'M ABOUT TO BLACK
OUT, I MANAGE TO CALL
OUT I JOHN 1:9...

GOD IS
LIGHT!



IN HIM
THERE IS NO
DARKNESS
AT ALL.

WHEN I EMERGE FROM
THE VISION, HOURS
HAVE PASSED, AND
STRANGE HAS LEFT.
BUT I HAVE CLARITY.

GOD SAVED ME FROM
HELL, BUT MY MORTAL
SINS HAVE FOLLOWED
ME. *GLUTTONY. ENVY.
SLUTTNY.*

THAT LEAVES **FOUR
MORE**. THEY'RE OUT
THERE SOMEWHERE
RIGHT NOW.

BUT STARTING
TONIGHT, I'M
DRIVING THE
DEVILS OUT OF
THE KITCHEN.
THOSE BORN
OF HELL...

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

...AND
THOSE BORN
OF EARTH.

SOON...

THE HEAT HAVE
ELIMINATED THEIR
ORGANIZED
COMPETITION AND
ARE RUNNING
HELL'S KITCHEN.

THEIR NUMBERS
ARE SEEMINGLY
ENDLESS.

THEY HAVE TECH THAT
EVEN DIRTY COPS LOADED
WITH FORFEITURE MONEY
CAN'T AFFORD.

I STOPPED THEIR HIT
ON BUTCH PHARRIS.
ELEKTRA'S MADE A
MASSIVE DENT IN
THEIR OPERATIONS.

BUT THEY
JUST... KEEP
COMING.

I'VE BEEN SO LOST IN
THE SAGA OF MY OWN
SALVATION THAT I'VE
INADVERTENTLY LET
THEM RUN RAMPANT.

BUT THAT
ENDS
TONIGHT.



I'M GETTING
TIRED OF ASKING
THIS.

SO TIRED
I MIGHT SLIP AND
CAVE IN YOUR JAW IF
I DON'T GET SOME
ANSWERS.



SO ONE
LAST TIME...
WHO'S RUNNING
THIS SHOW?



MAN, I
SWEAR TO GOD,
I DON'T KNOW!
NONE OF US KNOW
THE HIGHER-
UPS!

WRONG
ANSWER!



WAIT! WAIT! I CAN GIVE YOU
MY LIEUTENANT! HE KNOWS
MORE THAN ANY OF
US FLUNKIES!

WHERE
IS HE?

RIGHT ABOUT
NOW HE'LL BE
AT THE BAR--
YOU KNOW
THE ONE...

A Hellfire Club member in a black and white suit with a mask and a utility belt is crouched on a rooftop. He is holding a whip that is coiled in the air. The background shows a city skyline at night with lit-up buildings.

HELL IS A
BIG PLACE.

OVER THE AGES,
ITS CIRCLES AND
LAYERS HAVE BEEN
GIVEN COUNTLESS
APPELLATIONS.

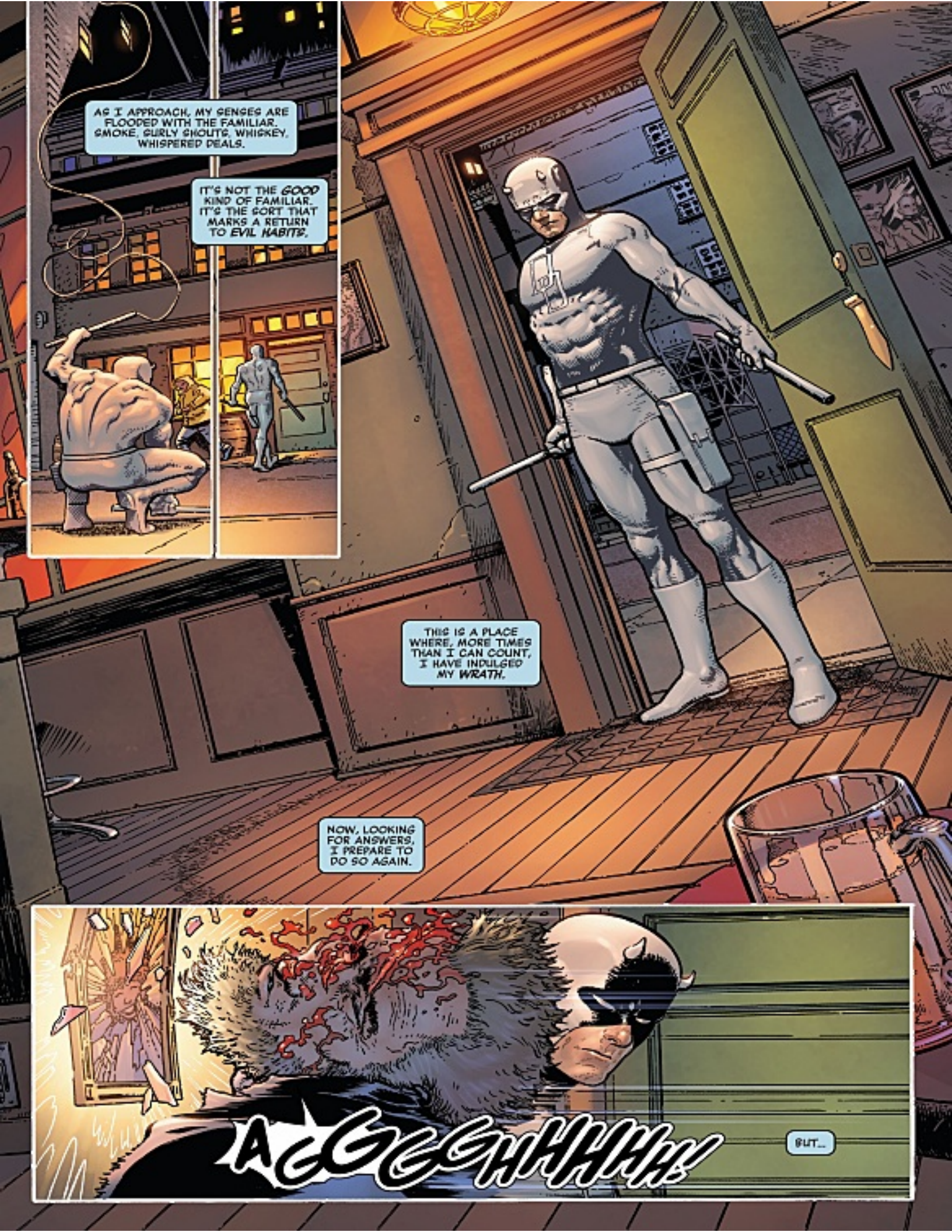
GEHENNA,
HADES,
INFERNO.

A close-up shot of two Hellfire Club members on a rooftop. One member is in the foreground, looking towards the right. In the background, another member is visible near a window. The scene is set at night with city lights.

BUT SOME
PARTS OF
HELL...



...HAVE NO
NAME.



AS I APPROACH, MY SENSES ARE
FLOODED WITH THE FAMILIAR.
SMOKE, GURLY SHOUTS, WHISKEY,
WHISPERED DEALS.

IT'S NOT THE GOOD
KIND OF FAMILIAR.
IT'S THE SORT THAT
MARKS A RETURN
TO EVIL HABITS.

THIS IS A PLACE
WHERE, MORE TIMES
THAN I CAN COUNT,
I HAVE INDULGED
MY WRATH.

NOW, LOOKING
FOR ANSWERS,
I PREPARE TO
DO SO AGAIN.

AGGGHHHHH

BUT...

...SOMEONE'S
BEAT ME TO IT.

HEY,
BUB.
LET'S
DANCE.

DEARDEVIL

Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "OKAY TO PRINT."

HOLY SNIKT! WHO'S THAT ON THE FINAL PAGE OF THIS ISSUE?!

Hello, Hornheads! DD Edditor DDevin Lewis reporting to you live and in print in the first week of 2024!

Let's skip the small talk and get right to it--WE HAVE HUGE THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU THIS YEAR IN THE PAGES OF DAREDEVIL! Obviously! Take a look at the guest stars we've enlisted just in the first couple of issues of the year--first Doctor Strange and WOLVERINE on the horizon? What else could we be planning?! WHAT OTHER FIGURES MIGHT LOOM LARGE IN MATT MURDOCK'S LIFE?!

(I'm dropping a sizable hint here, pun intended.)

One figure that'll be looming large in our year, at the very least, is SIXTY--as April marks SIXTY FEARLESS YEARS OF DAREDEVIL! I think you'll all agree that ol' Hornhead's aged exceedingly well, and we're going to celebrate in style! April's DAREDEVIL #8 will start the celebration, with some VERY familiar faces!

As if all that goodness wasn't enough, we've also started the new year off the best way possible here at Marvel HQ--with an OVERFLOWING digital mailbag, full of comments and critiques on the continuing adventures of your favorite Hell's Kitchen-based crimefighter(s) and mine!

So enough gabbing and yapping--let's make with the letters!

Dear Team DAREDEVIL,

WOW! I continue to love the designs of these Seven Deadly Sins. Two down and five to go!

Envy looked amazing with her elements of Medusa hair, Gorgon/Lamia scales, Harpy-like claws...and the horrifying way it was perched on Urich's shoulders...so fantastically freaky! And the green of Envy contrasted with the red of Matt/Daredevil? Perfect!

I absolutely continue to love the story, but the art of this book really pushes it to the next level.

I admit the addition of Bullseye into the story might've seemed a bit shoehorned to me (classic villain forced into a story focused on fresh antagonists and tales), but I'm curious to see where it goes. I love the clear implication of "he doesn't miss"--whoever hired Bullseye didn't actually want Butch dead, just injured. I'll be curious to see what role Butch's seemingly intentional maiming plays in the unfolding story ahead.

AWESOME book.

Thanks!

Andrew S.
Alexandria, VA

Thanks for reading and for writing, Andrew! Saladin, Aaron, Germán, Farid, Jesus and Clayton are all bringing the HEAT with each and every issue--so glad to hear it's paying off for you Marvelites too!

Bulleye's first appearance in the series was just a teaser, an amuse-bouche, if you will! Keep reading! I think you'll like what we have in store...

Dear DEARDEVIL,

I really appreciate Father Matt Murdock making sure no one can figure out he was a lawyer for decades by making simple legal mistakes. When he told Ben Urich that the Daily Bugle had printed slander instead of libel, I really believed there was no way he could have ever been an attorney!

Of course, if this was unintentional and you still give out No-Prizes, I would happily collect one.

I love the new run. But I love every DAREDEVIL run I have read so maybe I am just a sucker for Daredevil.

Michael H.

HM. That IS strange that someone who used to be a lawyer would make such a slipup, Michael. But is Father Matt who he says he is? Is he even who he THINKS he is?! What if he's a clone? A brainwashed long-lost friend of Matt's? MAYBE HE'S A ROBOT?!

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?!

I guess it's possible we juggled up slander and libel too...

Dear DAREDEVIL,

This has been such an amazing opening to this run. The art was out of this world. Just as I thought to myself, "Geez, they're character-assassinating Ben Urich," I flipped the page and saw that awesome art of the demon controlling Ben.

I noticed on the demon's forehead, it had the DD logo. It got me thinking about Matt's return and this possession story as a whole. I wonder if the demons will be linked to Matt's return in a way. Nothing comes without a cost, and bringing Matt back to life would be pricey.

I'm curious to see how much this demon and his brothers are connected to Matt's return as a priest.

Keep up the great work, team!!

Devin C.
Ottawa, Canada

P.S. For Devin, do you also use the gamer tag DareDevin?

Thanks for reading and for writing, Devin! You might just be on to something, as you suss out the details of the story Saladin and co. are crafting! Breaking a soul out of the afterlife does often take an incredible amount of effort and comes at a great cost...

P.S. Negative on the gamertag! Just a funny sign-off for the column. Though I am out there in the wilds of *Fortnite*, running around with my Ghost Rider and Daredevil skins!

OKAY! THAT'S IT! Literally all the space we have for this one. Be here next month for my favorite issue yet! That ain't a paper tiger--it's the one and only WOLVERINE!

Over and out!

Devin



ON SALE IN MARCH!